

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 204263
ORIGIN ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSCE-00 INR-05 CIAE-00 PM-03
DODE-00 INRE-00 SIL-01 SAB-01 L-01 PRS-01 SP-02
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DRAFTED BY ARA/PAN:EJNADEAU:LKB
APPROVED BY ARA/PAN:EJNADEAU
-----073010 261659Z /43
O 261618Z AUG 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

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LIMDIS-FM NADEAU FOR WYROUGH AND HINSON

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PN

SUBJECT:U.S. LABOR SITUATION IN THE CANAL ZONE
REF: (A) TELECON WYROUGH/NADEAU 8/20/77; (B) TELECON
HINSON/NADEAU 8/20/77

1. SO FAR AS I KNOW DEPARTMENT HAS NOT RECEIVED REPORT
CONTAINING EMBASSY RECOMMENDATIONS ON HOW TO RESOLVE U.S.
LABOR PROBLEMS (DECLINING MORALE AND INCREASING RESIGNATIONS
RESULTING FROM UNCERTAINTIES) IN THE CANAL ZONE.

2. ARA/PAN STAFF HAS DRAFTED FOLLOWING PROPOSED LETTER
WHICH IDEALLY WOULD BE SENT TO EACH U.S. EMPLOYEE. DRAFT IS
NOW BEING CIRCULATED WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT FOR COMMENTS.
WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE COMMENTS FROM WYROUGH AND EMBASSY.

BEGIN TEXT. MR.
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PAGE 02 STATE 204263

PANAMA CANAL COMPANY
BALBOA HEIGHTS, CANAL ZONE

DEAR

AS YOU ARE AWARE, I WILL BE SIGNING A NEW PANAMA CANAL
TREATY IN THE NEAR FUTURE, WHICH, SUBJECT TO THE ADVICE AND

CONSENT OF THE CONGRESS, WILL MEET PANAMA'S REASONABLE ASPIRATIONS AND AT THE SAME TIME, WILL SAFEGUARD OUR NATIONAL INTERESTS.

FIVE PRESIDENTS HAVE SOUGHT A NEW TREATY, ONE WHICH MEETS OUR FOREIGN POLICY NEEDS BUT ALSO WOULD MINIMIZE THE ADVERSE IMPACT ON CANAL ENTERPRISE EMPLOYEES. INDEED, UNDER THE TERMS OF THE TREATY, MOST EMPLOYEE POSITIONS WILL REMAIN RELATIVELY UNCHANGED, WITH THE SAME EMPLOYMENT RIGHTS AND BENEFITS IN FORCE CURRENTLY. I HOPE THE PRESENT WORKFORCE WILL STAY AND CONTINUE TO OPERATE THE CANAL IN THE SAME EFFICIENT MANNER.

I REALIZE THAT ONE OF THE MAJOR CONSIDERATIONS IS THE EFFECT THE NEW TREATY WILL HAVE ON YOUR LIVING CONDITIONS. JURISDICTION WILL PASS TO PANAMA AND YOU WILL BE LIVING IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY. HOWEVER, THE TREATY PROVIDES THAT YOU WILL BE ACCORDED SIMILAR LEGAL PROTECTIONS TO THOSE ENJOYED BY OTHER UNITED STATES CITIZENS SERVING ABROAD. YOU, AND YOUR FAMILIES WILL CONTINUE TO RECEIVE MEDICAL CARE AT UNITED STATES FACILITIES AND ATTEND UNITED STATES SCHOOLS.

SOME OF THE CURRENT FUNCTIONS OF THE PANAMA CANAL COMPANY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 STATE 204263

AND THE CANAL ZONE GOVERNMENT WILL BE ELIMINATED, OR ASSUMED BY THE UNITED STATES MILITARY FORCES IN THE CANAL AREA, OR TRANSFERRED TO THE REPUBLIC OF PANAMA. THE TREATY PROVIDES FOR YOUR CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT, WHENEVER POSSIBLE, IN THOSE TRANSFERRED ACTIVITIES. MOREOVER, THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY HAS ASSURED ME THAT EMPLOYEES WHO ARE ADVERSELY AFFECTED BY THE TREATY WILL BE GIVEN EVERY CONSIDERATION FOR CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT WITH THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT.

I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR THE SERVICE YOU HAVE PROVIDED TO YOUR COUNTRY IN THE PAST AND HOPE YOU WILL JOIN WITH ME IN ASSURING THAT THE CANAL REMAIN OPEN, SAFE AND EFFICIENT IN THE FUTURE. CHRISTOPHER

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Message Attributes

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